

Arafat arrives in North Yemen

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Sana'a from Tunis Tuesday for talks with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency quoted Mr. Arafat as saying the talks would cover "treacherous Zionist aggressions" in Israeli-occupied Arab territory following last month's killing of three Arab students in Hebron. Mr. Arafat was also expected to head a meeting of the Palestinian Supreme Military Council in Sana'a later Tuesday, it said. In Tunis last week, Mr. Arafat attended a Palestine Central Council meeting which discussed Palestinian differences and relations with Syria.

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Saudi king receives Jordanian message

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia received a message from King Hussein, the Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency gave no details of the letter delivered by Court Minister Amer Khammash several days after the two monarchs met in the Saudi summer resort of Taif. The talks covered bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war and latest Arab developments.

Israel continues land seizures

AMMAN (Petra) — The residents of the West Bank village of Aqraba, near Nablus, have been notified by the Israeli occupation authorities that all plots of the adjacent Al Tawil area are now under the control of the occupation authority. Travellers arriving from Nablus said Tuesday. They added that the Al Tawil land was Aqraba's only remaining land property following previous seizure of 110,000 dunums of village land by the occupation authorities.

French troops said en route to Chad

PARIS (R) — A force of French soldiers is being flown from the Central African Republic to the Chadian capital N'djamena, sources close to the French defence ministry said Tuesday. The sources put the number of troops at a maximum of 200 and said their role would be logistical and involve handling military and telecommunications equipment. A defence ministry official earlier declined to comment on a report published by the domestic French news agency (ACP) that France had ordered troops to leave the Central African Republic for Chad. (Related story on p. 2)

Israeli convoy attacked in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Gunmen in a car shot at an Israeli convoy in southern Lebanon Monday evening, a military spokesman said Tuesday. The incident occurred near the village of Abashe, north-east of Tyre on the Mediterranean coast.

Libya seeks Security Council meeting

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Libya is requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss "provocative actions" by the United States. Libya's charge d'affaires, Awad Burwin, said Tuesday. He was responding to reporters' questions while on his way to a meeting with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Weinberger to visit Islamabad Sept. 30

ISLAMABAD (R) — U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger will pay a three-day visit to Pakistan from Sept. 30 as part of an Asian tour, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. The statement gave no details about the visit.

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Rival Lebanese factions level charges at each other for wave of bombings

BEIRUT (R) — Rival sides traded charges Tuesday over who was responsible for recent explosions in Syrian-held parts of Lebanon in which more than 50 people were killed.

Damascus Radio linked the blasts to a meeting in Beirut last Thursday between former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, now a minister without portfolio in the Menachem Begin government, and Pierre Gemayel, father of Lebanon's president and head of the rightist Falange Party. But the Falangist daily Al Amal put the blame squarely on the inter-Palestinian guerrilla conflict and said the bombings were meant to sabotage the current Middle East mission of U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane.

Former Prime Minister Rashid Karim, a Sunni Muslim and a leading figure in the opposition Syrian-backed "National Salvation Front," was quoted by the Beirut press Tuesday as saying "elements within the authorities" were behind weekend car bombings in the Lebanese towns of Tripoli and Baalbek. He did not elaborate.

In a shooting incident Monday night outside the Beirut home of Amal leader Nabih Berri, one man was killed and another was wounded, press reports said Tuesday.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday holds talks with the new U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, Robert McFarlane (Petra photo)

McFarlane briefs Hussein

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received the new special U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Robert McFarlane, who briefed him on the outcome of current U.S. efforts for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

Mr. McFarlane, who arrived in Amman from Saudi Arabia after talks with King Fahd, conveyed to the King President Reagan's determination to pursue U.S. efforts for a comprehensive solution of the Lebanese problem, and restoring peace in the Middle East. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The United States vetoed a resolution that would have declared Israeli settlements in the West Bank "illegal."

Reuter quoted Palace sources here as saying Mr. McFarlane met King Hussein several hours after arriving in Amman from the Saudi summer capital of Taif. Earlier, Mr. McFarlane went to Lebanon, Israel, and Syria as well as Saudi Arabia on his Middle East tour.

Israel declines to pull out completely pending a withdrawal by Syria, but Damascus continues to denounce U.S. Middle East peace proposals.

Arafat: U.S. policy threatens Mideast

VIENNA (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in Austrian Television Monday United States policy in the Middle East was threatening to split the region through a dangerous "balkanisation" process.

He told an interviewer in Tunis following a meeting there last week of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Central Council, that events in Lebanon and action taken against the Palestinians were causing ever new splits in the area.

"This brings new conflicts, new volcanoes. That is balkanisation... Mr. Arafat said, U.S. policies and Israel's "arrogance of power" were the main causes, he added.

Asked if the PLO leadership felt itself threatened by Syria, which expelled him six weeks ago, Mr. Arafat replied: "We have misunderstandings, but we hope we will be able to bypass them."

He told reporters Libya is not a friend of ours, Libya is just as Chad is... Egypt's participation in the war will not solve the problem but will complicate it further," he said.

Mr. Arafat said he insisted that negotiations for a Middle East settlement must be based on an Arab peace plan agreed at a summit meeting in Fez last September.

He said he was asking for a United Nations Security Council debate on this issue. "There we can address all parties to the conflict. All the elements of the Middle East crisis are there."

Mr. Arafat said he had told the Austrian government, which has been mediating for a possible exchange of Israeli and Palestinian war prisoners, that the PLO was ready to begin negotiations on this, and expected results.

The PLO earlier this year offered to swap eight Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon last year for 1,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails and more than 5,000 detainees held by Israel in a camp in South Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat said Monday he was ready to begin talks on six Israelis held by the mainstream Palestinian commando group which he leads, and added he would do his best for the two others. They are in the hands of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Assad opposes troop separation in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's government rejects an Israeli-proposed agreement to separate Syrian and Israeli forces facing each other in Lebanon, a Syrian minister said Monday.

Culture Minister Najah Attar announced the rejection in an article published by the Damascus government newspaper Tishrin that Syria would not withdraw its troops from Lebanon unless Israel unconditionally withdraws.

The article appeared one day

after the new special U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Robert McFarlane, apparently failed in six hours of talks to soften Syria's opposition to the Lebanese-Israeli truce.

Robert McFarlane came to us with an empty bag," Mrs. Attar wrote. "We refuse the policy of partial withdrawal because it consecrates the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. We also refuse to disengage in the Bekaa because it helps the policy of Partial withdrawal."

The Palestinian crisis will gain the interest and will figure in discussions of various U.N. bodies in the light of the continuing Israeli arbitrary measures in the occupied territories and this emphasis stems from the national Jordanian stand which considers the Palestinian problem as its top priority issue," Mr. Saleh said.

He added that the Palestinian problem, the Israeli plan to build a canal linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea, and disarmament will figure high among topics to be discussed during the next session of United Nations.

Mr. Saleh is in Amman for consultations with the Foreign Ministry and senior Jordanian officials on the topics of the next session of the U.N.

Presidential contest turns into cliffhanger in Lagos

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's presidential election Tuesday appeared to be turning into a cliffhanger when a second batch of results showed incumbent Shehu Shagari scoring some handsome gains to offset early losses.

With only six state results out of 19 declared, it was still too early to predict the outcome, but a see-saw battle was clearly under way and excited Nigerians stayed close to their radios to pick up the latest twists.

In the first two results announced just after midnight, Mr. Shagari picked up a 1.5 million votes, adding 20 per cent to the 62.5 per cent share of the poll he won in 1979. He also won overwhelmingly in Abuja, the projected new national capital, where he took 127,000 votes against only 4,000 for his nearest rival.

Bauchi compensated for the 1.2 million votes which Mr. Awolowo won in his home state of Ondo, but the UPN leader also managed to win 1.4 million votes in Ogun despite dropping 17 per cent from his 1979 share.

According to incomplete returns, Mr. Awolowo was also doing well in Bendel state to the east of Lagos, where the NPN had hopes of a majority, and in Eastern Cross River where the UPN had been expected to gain.

In Lagos, another Awolowo stronghold, the UPN won nearly 1.4 million votes, over 83 per cent.



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Win here, losses there

IN THE aftermath of Washington's latest and most dangerous posture on the question of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, we do not see why any Arab should lift one finger in aid of American policies in the Middle East. If the U.S. is truly and genuinely trying to help Lebanon restore its sovereignty and independence, it still has no right whatsoever to proceed in that direction at our own expense. And then, who could believe that America's blessing of the projected Israeli partial withdrawal from Lebanon, would actually help the Lebanese quest for peace.

In Israel for the past several days, politicians have been toying with the idea of separating Israeli and Syrian forces in Lebanon; and the Begin government seems to have succeeded in convincing the U.S. administration — the U.S. special envoy, Robert McFarlane, in particular — to carry suggestions of a military disengagement to Damascus. Syria is reported to have rejected the pact after Mr. McFarlane's round of talks there Monday, but there is no sign yet that the Americans have given up on the idea yet.

The Israelis would naturally be keen to get the U.S. envoy involved in mediation efforts over a separation of forces in the Bekaa Valley. Such an agreement, if successfully concluded, would help further reduce Israeli casualties in Lebanon and would also greatly reduce the chances of a flare-up between the two opposing armies there. What is more, a pact of this sort would serve to consecrate the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon as well as turn the U.S. attention completely from the real issues facing Lebanon and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

This talk, however, brings us back to question the basic issue of just what the new American envoy to the Middle East is trying to do. Evidently, Mr. McFarlane is not that much interested in his government's policy towards Israel's continued Judaisation of the West Bank and even less so in achieving Palestinian rights, although he is supposed to assume Philip Habib's full role in the search for a comprehensive Middle East settlement. His credentials suggest that he cannot go much beyond arranging military disengagements and arrangements. So, what should we expect from him? And, how far are we Arabs expected to help the U.S. achieve political success, if it ever will, at our own expense?

Lebanon is extremely important to us, and we all want it to survive and prosper. But it is also very much an integral part of the Arab World, and the Americans should know that they cannot make us win a round here only to lose a thousand there.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. encourages new settlements

U.S. SECRETARY of State George Shultz did not tell the truth in his statement two days ago that Washington was still committed to its policy regarding Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab lands. Any observers of the American administration's policies in the past must have realised how it repeatedly went back on its official pronouncements regarding the settlements. There is a real danger in this American approach not only where the Palestinian people's rights are concerned but also to U.S. credibility. Before Reagan became president, Washington had on several occasions stressed the "illegitimacy" of the Israeli settlements and its opposition to the annexation of other nations' property by force in accordance with the U.N. charter. But when Mr. Reagan was elected president the U.S. began to go back on its declared policies. The new administration stated that these settlements constituted "an obstacle" to peace and later Washington said that the presence of these settlements does not help create an opportunity for a peace settlement. Of course there is a big difference between "non legitimacy" of the settlements and their being termed a mere "obstacle" to peace.

We had originally welcomed President Reagan's initiative in which he called for the freezing of settlements because we thought that the freeze would be the first step towards the removal of the settlements. But it seems from Israel's escalation of its policy that Washington either does not care any more or does not consider this an "illegitimate" action, something which is bound to encourage the Zionist state to pursue its policies indefinitely.

Al Dustour: Israel gets green light

SUNDAY'S STATEMENT by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Israel's settlements in the occupied Arab territory clearly reflect a change in the American administration's stand toward this problem which is regarded as the major obstacle in the path of peace. Though Shultz stressed that the U.S. attitude towards settlements in the West Bank has not changed, he implied an overt bias towards the Israeli government's policies. Thus Shultz's statement was clearly in line with the American administration's new policy so evidently manifested or the recent veto in the U.N. Security Council meeting on the situation in Hebron. This American bias was welcomed by Israeli government leaders who considered it as proof of Washington's support for Israel and its settlement policy. Shultz's acceptance of the principle which states that Jews have the right to live in the West Bank is merely an echo of Zionist extremists claims in this respect.

Sawt Al Shaab: Fully fledged enemy

EVERYTIME THERE is a presidential election in the United States both the Republicans and the Democrats vie to win over the votes of the Jewish community by making promises to Israel or making statements that please the Zionist lobby and Israel's rulers. The leaders of both parties realise that the key to the presidency lies in Israel's hands and the Jewish vote. The Zionists have been able over the years to exploit such promises and pre-election statements for the benefit of Israel and of course at the expense of the Arabs.

Secretary of State George Shultz's statement Sunday that he does not support the idea of dismantling Israeli settlements is the best expression of the present administration's policy and its attempts to win over the votes of the Jewish community. It is natural that the Israeli rulers should be delighted with such statements and that the Arabs should be surprised since this constitutes a direct challenge to their legitimate rights. The United States, which some Arabs regard as a partner in the quest for peace, is in reality nothing but a fully fledged enemy.

U.S. balancing reassurance with military show

By Jim Adams
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan and his aides are balancing a dramatic show of military resolve in Central America with reassurances at home that they are not risking U.S. entanglement in a regional war.

Secretary of State George Shultz told senators this week that U.S. military policy, including manoeuvres in the Pacific off Nicaragua, helped spur current peace efforts in the region.

At a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Thursday, he called the planned sea and land battle exercises a credible show of U.S. "capability to muster a protective shield in the face of any challenge."

At the same time, he assured the senators that U.S. forces would not engage in combat if hostilities developed during the exercises over the next few months and instead would withdraw.

But some senators said they were still worried about slipping into war and polls showed that many Americans, for whom Vietnam remains a vivid memory, shared this fear.

"You can't have it both ways," Democrat Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island told Mr. Shultz at the hearing.

"You can't scare the Cubans and Nicaraguans and still expect to reassure the American people that the United States will not be drawn into another bloody conflict," Mr. Pell said.

A Washington Post newspaper

poll this week found that 54 percent of the readers interviewed did indeed believe Mr. Reagan's policy was leading to U.S. involvement in war.

But 29 per cent thought Mr. Reagan's policy would keep U.S. forces out of war, and some of those who said they feared war did not think it would be as bad as the one in Vietnam.

Efforts to reassure the public and a critical Congress began with Mr. Reagan's news conference.

He and Mr. Shultz followed up in private meetings with congressional leaders who briefed reporters afterwards and Mr. Shultz underscored the position in his public testimony before the senators.

Mr. Shultz said the U.S. strategy was to show a resolve so strong that rebels supplied by Cuba, Nicaragua and the Soviet Union would see they could not take over El Salvador and the rest of Central America by force and would thus have to negotiate.

Mr. Shultz said that the strategy is showing results.

"A victory by the far left and its foreign supporters through armed force is not in the cards..." he said. "Our adversaries' opinions -- which have so far stressed force -- must be narrowed toward negotiation and dialogue."

At the same time, he said the basis was being laid for vigorous U.S.-aided economic growth in Central America once the shooting stops.

But Mr. Shultz cautioned that negotiating a peaceful settlement

would be difficult despite hopeful signs in recent weeks.

During that time, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan junta member Daniel Ortega have offered to negotiate a withdrawal of foreign forces from the region and a halt of arms shipments to the rebel and government fighters.

And Mr. Reagan's special envoy, Richard Stone, met a Salvadorean rebel leader and Nicaraguan officials in an effort to bring about peace talks.

Mr. Shultz said Mr. Stone was trying to bring about direct talks between the Salvadorean Peace Commission and the rebels on their participation in Salvadorean elections.

Mr. Shultz reiterated that the United States would be willing to withdraw its advisers and halt its arms supplies to El Salvador if it could win a verifiable agreement that Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviet bloc would do the same.

Congressional leaders quoted Mr. Shultz as telling them at a pri-

vate breakfast that he was studying the Cuban and Nicaraguan peace offers to determine if they were sincere.

A senior U.S. official said there was some doubt in the administration about whether Dr. Castro was ready to negotiate. "We have been down that road before and been rebuffed," he said.



Lim's resignation raises question of Singapore's leadership succession

By Francis Daniel
 Reuter

SINGAPORE — A Harvard-educated technocrat who had climbed fast in Singapore politics under the firm guidance of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has fallen suddenly from Mr. Lee's grace over issues that remain clouded.

After being thrust into the limelight six years ago and once regarded as a potential candidate to take over from Mr. Lee, Mr. Lim Chee Onn's political career now seems to have been wrecked.

Mr. Lim, among a handful of young professionals handpicked by Mr. Lee for high office, was the chief of the government-backed National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and a cabinet minister. Last month, the day before he

turned 39, Mr. Lim announced his resignation from the cabinet as sequel to his earlier dismissal from the NTUC by the prime minister.

It is not clear what effect the sudden move against Mr. Lim will have on the government's much publicised programme to groom a new generation of political leadership and a possible successor to Mr. Lee.

Political sources said Mr. Lim was likely to give up his post as vice-chairman of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP).

Mr. Lim is expected to retain his seat in the PAP-dominated parliament but the sources doubt he would be allowed to stand under the PAP banner in the general election due next year.

Mr. Lim's aborted political career is not expected to cause any

major upset here although opinion was divided within the PAP over the prospects of attracting professional talent into its ranks in the future.

Some party cadres said Mr. Lim's sudden political demise would reinforce the fear of failure among bright young Singaporeans now being persuaded to go into politics.

But some members of the well-disciplined PAP hierarchy maintained those who now opted to go into politics here would be more sensitive to the realities of public life.

Mr. Lim was publicly chastised and sacked by the prime minister for his alleged failure to maintain a cooperative relationship between old guards and newly-appointed professionals in the NTUC, the central organisation controlling all

labour union activities on the island.

Political analysts say that Mr. Lim, at the helm of the only mass organisation outside the PAP, had built considerable support within and outside the NTUC.

His close associates, including members of the so-called second generation still under Mr. Lee's tutelage, praised him for his efforts in restructuring the trade union movement in line with government policy.

The English-language newspaper here, which follow the government line, suggested that Mr. Lim's abrupt exit could have more to it than his failure as a labour leader.

But Mr. Lim himself had been discreetly silent.

Mr. Lim is not the only "second

generation" leader who had to leave the political stage unable to meet the exacting standards of Mr. Lee. But he is the only young technocrat who managed to rise to cabinet rank and then fall.

The Lim episode demonstrates that Mr. Lee, who turns 60 on Sept. 16, is very much in command although he has entrusted much of the day-to-day running of the government to half a dozen young technocrats still under his grooming.

But the downfall of perhaps the most promising among them raises the crucial question: Will Mr. Lee be able to find a young successor to whom he can bequeath his mantle by 1990, the target he has set himself for a change of guard?

Mr. Lee has made clear that

anyone aspiring to step into his shoes must be tough and maintain a firm grip on the reins of power, never allowing an opposition to jeopardise what he and his colleagues have built up over the past two decades.

Under Mr. Lee's rule, the PAP has maintained its total dominance, keeping all the opposition groups in disarray.

But the first crack in the PAP political stranglehold came in 1981 when the Workers Party managed to win a by-election gaining a voice for the opposition in parliament for the first time in 16 years.

The PAP has redoubled its efforts with its younger generation leaders taking a major share of public campaigning with Mr. Lee and his colleagues keeping a watchful eye.



Chinese history: Important factor in political process

By Eric Hall
 Reuter

PEKING — History in China can be major political news and the ideas of a thinker 2,000 years in the grave can move governments or provoke revolutions.

For the Chinese, the use of historical precedent and allegory is by no means a matter for academics only.

It is, and always has been, at the very root of the political process.

In the early 1970s Lin Biao, once hailed as a likely successor to Chairman Mao Tsetung, was branded a traitor, and what was termed his counter-revolutionary revisionism was attacked through a campaign against the ancient philosopher Confucius.

While the criticism caused amusement and disbelief to the West, in China it was deadly serious and many people denounced as revisionists were executed or imprisoned.

Recently, China's strongman Deng Xiaoping said he feared what he gave too much away in regaining sovereignty over Hong Kong he would be remembered as another Li Hongzhang. Mr. Li was a 19th century mandarin seen as the man who signed Hoog Kong away to the British.

The Guangming daily referred to the 17th century Qing Emperor Kangxi who, despite his superior military might, negotiated the sur-

render of forces loyal to the previous Ming dynasty occupying a certain large island now known as Taiwan.

The next day, the article was translated for the English language paper China Daily, with a suitable gloss for the foreign reader, noting how this was the correct current policy for reunifying the nationalist island with the Communist mainland.

Another obscure piece in the People's Daily attacked a locality for planning an expensive monument to an eighth century emperor's concubine. It appeared when rumours were rife that the large mausoleum of Mao Tseung Peking might be demolished.

Chairman Mao himself was immersed in Chinese history. As a youth, he was obsessed with popular heroes of Chinese medieval romances.

As leader of China, Chairman Mao liked to see himself as another Qin Shihuang, the ruthless ruler who forged a united empire in 221 B.C. "and what was so remarkable about Qin Shihuang?" He executed 46,000 of them," Chairman Mao once said.

Chairman Mao's favourite work was the 11th century "comprehensive mirror to government," a book which crystallises the Chinese association of history with politics. It was written to teach young crown princes how to govern.

Chairman Mao's famous thoughts on military strategy, his concept of people's war and emphasis on fluid and flexible attack and defence, owe almost everything to China's Sun Zhi who lived well over 2,000 years ago.

In 1965, when Chairman Mao was fighting for his political life against his Communist party enemies, an article in Shanghai's Wen Hui Daily attacked what was a roaringly successful Peking opera libretto, called the "dismissal of Hai Rui."

Hai Rui was a 16th century court official who criticised the emperor for misrule. The audience easily knew whom the emperor represented -- Chairman Mao.

The paper's article was Chairman Mao's first return blow in a fight which ended with his counter-coup and the Cultural Revolution. The shadow of China's history is still strong.

Debate still continues in earnest about the Chinese philosopher Confucius and his school of thought, the single greatest influence on China's social and political development.

A recent article in the influential Guangming Daily began: "We should sum up our history from Confucius to Sun Yat-sen" founder of the Chinese Republic in 1911.

To achieve this, the article concluded, Confucius must be res-tudied and re-estimated.

Sri Lanka's separatist ban could boost guerrilla position

By Jeremy Clift
 Reuter

MADRAS, India — Sri Lanka's ban on separatist parties is likely to drive underground the political aspirations of the island's minority Tamil community and strengthen the hand of the guerrilla movement, Tamil leaders and Western diplomatic analysts say.

Tamil leaders, interviewed in the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna, told Reuters they felt the ban passed by parliament in Colombo last week after ethnic violence could assist the guerrillas, known as "The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam."

Leaders of the main Tamil political party in Sri Lanka said they were looking to India for help, particularly by putting diplomatic pressure on the government of President Junius Jayewardene to adopt a more conciliatory line towards them.

After a telephone conversation with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the 77-year-old president was sending his brother to New Delhi for talks with the Indian government.

Sri Lankan government ministers said in parliament the constitutional amendment to outlaw those advocating separation was especially aimed against the main party of the island's minority community, the Tamil United Liberation Front (T

Jordan

American journalist challenges Kahan Commission's findings

If the journalists could see, why not the Israelis?

By Muhammed Azhar Ali Khan

A veteran American journalist has challenged the Kahan Commission's finding that Israeli officers did not really see the massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut.

He says: "To be sure, Sharon conceded that Israeli troops coordinated, planned and monitored the operation, then did nothing to stop the killing clearly visible around the clock thanks to flares and audible from Israeli positions surrounding the camps. (In its only obviously wrongheaded factual error, the Kahan Report insisted Israel troops couldn't see into the camp's alleyways, even with giant telescopes on the command-post roof. Journalists who climbed the

seven-story building had no such difficulty with their own naked eyes.) The statement comes from Jonathan C. Randall, the senior foreign correspondent of the Washington Post. It appears in his book, *Going All the Way: Christian Warlords, Israeli Adventurers and the War in Lebanon*.

The author saw the 1982 Lebanon war first-hand. He describes it in blunt, vivid terms: "What started out as controlled violence gave way to full-fledged conventional warfare by 1982, when the Israelis invaded the country and routinely employed fighter-bombers, heavy artillery, and naval gunfire against residential areas of the capital. Cluster bombs, incapacitating gas, white phosphorus, 'smart' bombs were

all used. Much of this ordnance was American, and so was much of the responsibility for what happened in Lebanon. But the United States at times seemed interested less in acknowledging that aspect of its aid to Israel than in learning the battlefield effectiveness of its weaponry. Even when the United States ordered a ban on new deliveries of cluster bombs, the shipments kept arriving."

The author vehemently denounces what he calls Israel's increasingly aggressive and imperialistic policies toward the Arabs. He traces the Israeli design on Lebanon to the early 1950s and quotes from then Prime Minister Moshe Sharett's diaries, which, in turn, quote David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Dayan, and

Randall also points out that, though Syrian forces had originally intervened in Lebanon with U.S. and Israeli backing to save the Christians from defeat, they ultimately became unpopular

with all sections of the Lebanese population and were seen not as peacekeepers but an army of occupation.

The correspondent also refers to the mistakes of Lebanese Muslims, including the Druze. Their uncompromising attitude in the later years of the civil war resulted in most Christian factions of Lebanon joining together and seeking help wherever they could get them.

But, among the Lebanese, the author blames mostly the Christian Maronites for their destructive ways that brought enormous sufferings to them—and to their countrymen of all faiths. He says: "We built Lebanon and we will burn it if became the defiant Maronite justification for invad-

ing destruction rather than yielding to leftist demands for timid economic reforms, slushing requests for a fairer share of political power. If this wasn't national suicide, it was the next best thing."

Randall takes a searching look at Lebanon, not only since 1948 but at its evolution through history, and especially the evolution of the Christian community. He describes the Maronites' internal rivalry and their lights and alliances, with outsiders.

In what must be one of the best books on Lebanon—in terms of information, analysis, and readability—Randall describes the rise and now the paralysis of a lovely country.

One would expect that such a well-informed writer would offer

some thoughts on how he thinks events will turn out hereafter.

Says he: "Out of pure journalistic sixth sense, during a week's visit in September 1974, I had predicted the coming civil war in print—and was banned from Lebanon until my prophecy came true a half year later. Even I had never imagined that violence could so delight in seemingly endless variations, trapping the forces in Lebanese society and the entire Middle East in shifting alliances. Perhaps because I had a reporter's mind and not a novelist's, lack a mathematical sense for permutations, and knew little about Lebanon or the Arab World, I discovered the limitations of my craft. At the same time, the Lebanese, suffering from similar tui-

lings and some others, not entirely unwittingly blew up their country, with a little help from their friends and neighbours. Well before the first year of fighting was over, the Lebanese were no longer calling the shots. All manner of foreigners were. But the Lebanese made it easy. They were hell-bent on going all the way. They still are, and they give no signs yet of having exhausted all the possibilites."

Going All the Way: Christian Warlords, Israeli Adventurers and the War in Lebanon, published in the U.S. by the Viking Press, New York and in Canada by Penguin Books Ltd., Pages 300 and price \$22.95

--Arab News



Some of the victims of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. Randall challenges Kahan Commission's contention that the Israeli officers did not see the massacre.



A Palestinian refugee family find shelter in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters during Israel's drive into west Beirut.

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Inefficiency plagues Soviet grain harvest

MOSCOW (R) — Transport problems and inefficient planning continue to plague the Soviet harvest, with the result that thousands of tonnes of produce still rot on station platforms, the official daily Pravda said.

"In major industrial centres tens of thousands of freight cars laden with highly perishable goods accumulate at the railway stations waiting to be unloaded. And in mid-July more than one thousand refrigerated cars stood idle," Pravda said.

In the first six months of this year, the number of freight wagons standing idle had twice gone above the number planned.

Western experts have predicted a grain harvest of some 200 million tonnes in the Soviet Union this year, the best for five years. But the Kremlin is clearly aware that this is not good enough, particularly if much is wasted through carelessness.

Regional supply plans drawn up by the fruit and vegetable ministry verged on the ridiculous in their use of transport, Pravda said.

Tomatoes from Central Asia and southern Russia were being shipped to the Baltic republics and Byelorussia in the west of the country while those from the western republic of Moldavia were being sent to the Ural mountain area and Siberia it said.

Meanwhile, collective farms lag behind schedule with the sowing of winter grain seed and preparation for spring crops, the top Soviet agricultural control body said Monday.

The supreme Soviet's agricultural affairs commission, at a regular meeting Monday, suggested each collective farm should set up stores of spring grain seeds, the official news agency TASS reported.

Collection of winter seed and preparation for sowing was currently unsatisfactory in many areas, it said.

In the non-black earth regions, preparation of the soil for sowing was sluggish although the optimal sowing time was near, the commission reported.

This was despite the fact that the newly-introduced system of crop rotation had greatly improved conditions for winter grain crops, TASS said.

The commission paid much attention to the preparation of seed stocks for next year's spring crops and noted that there were serious shortcomings here, TASS said.

"We suggest a study of the state of affairs and the establishment in each farm of its own stores of spring grain and other agricultural seeds... with emphasis on full use of possibilities of creating stores of new high-productive sorts and hybrids," the commission said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swiss inflation falls to 2.2%

BERNE (R) — Swiss inflation fell to 2.2 per cent last month, the lowest since February 1979, the government announced. In June it was 2.8 per cent. Among major industrialised nations only Japan with 2.0 per cent has a lower rate. Swiss inflation has been gradually falling since reaching a peak of 7.5 per cent in August 1981. The consumer price index fell 0.2 per cent last month from June's level.

Sabic, Goodrich sign letter of intent

RIYADH (R) — The Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic) said Monday it had signed a letter of intent with the American B.F. Goodrich tyre company for the use of Goodrich technology in manufacturing products used in plastics, cables and electric wire. Under the agreement, Sabic will produce 300,000 tonnes of vinyl chloride monomer and 200,000 tonnes of polyvinyl chloride a year at two plants at Jubail.

Lisbon agrees to tough IMF terms

LISBON (R) — The Portuguese government has agreed to tough conditions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), slashing public spending and reducing real wages. For a \$300 million loan agreement, official sources said Monday, Portugal, struggling under a \$13.5 billion foreign debt will have to suffer a drop of between four and five per cent in the real value of wages under the IMF conditions.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REMIC



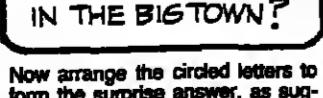
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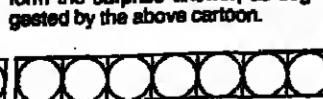
ACCUST



TONKYT



ANSWER: A



Yesterday's Jumble: PRIME DIZZY SUPERB JUMPER
Answer: What he often did behind his wife's back—ZIPPED HER UP

OECD sees sharp increase in Japanese trade surplus

PARIS (R) — Japan's huge trade surplus is likely to rise sharply over the next 18 months but sustained growth will have to depend on domestic demand, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday.

In its yearly review of the Japanese economy, the OECD forecast the surplus would increase to \$30 billion this year and \$35 billion in 1984 from \$18 billion in 1982, mainly due to stimulation of Japanese exports by U.S. economic recovery.

But it said export-led growth appeared to be ruled out in the medium term by widespread protectionist measures imposed to counter the much-criticised surplus by Japan's trading partners.

Sustained growth would therefore depend on domestic demand, which is forecast to accelerate

to around three per cent by the end of 1984 from an estimated two per cent in the first half of 1983 despite high real interest rates and tight fiscal policy.

Japanese international competitiveness remains favourable despite a stronger yen, and lower oil prices will contribute to an improvement in the country's terms of trade, with projected import prices dropping 10 per cent by the end of 1984 from 1982.

The projected increase in Japanese exports and an expected significant improvement in corporate profitability should lead to a modest rise in investment from the second half of 1983.

But public investment is set to stagnate in the second half of 1984, the OECD said.

The effect of a government policy of reducing budget deficits is

expected to restrain private incomes and consumption while government spending is likely to be significantly weaker than private demand, it added.

The Japanese current account balance of payments surplus is expected to rise to \$18 billion this year and to \$21 billion in 1984 from \$6.9 billion in 1982.

Japan's inflation rate, at two per cent already one of the lowest in the 24-member OECD, is expected to remain modest. But the labour market situation may worsen.

Unemployment is likely to rise to just under three per cent by the end of 1984 from 2.5 per cent last June and could go higher if a recent sharp rise in the number of women seeking work continues.

In Tokyo, the Japanese finance ministry said Tuesday that Japan registered a record monthly trade

surplus in July of \$2.85 billion surpassing the previous high of \$2.42 billion recorded in March 1978.

Economists said the country appeared to be heading for a record annual trade surplus of about \$25 to \$35 billion in the financial year ending next March.

Japanese politicians and officials are voicing concern about possible world retaliation to block the flow of Japanese goods.

Exports assessed at the customs last month totalled \$12.62 billion, 5.5 per cent more than in July last year, but imports dropped by 8.5 per cent to about \$9.76 billion.

July exports in the United States, Japan's biggest customer, were up 14.1 per cent from the same month in 1982.

Meanwhile, Japan's oil import bill is dropping because of falling international oil prices.

Dollar settles

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell back against major currencies Tuesday as Monday's surge to new highs against the West German mark, the French franc and the Japanese yen ran out of steam.

After the hectic trading of the past week, dealers said markets were calmer Tuesday with only modest intervention by central banks.

They said Monday's news of a one-half of a percentage point rise in United States prime interest rates failed to have a significant effect on the market, as the rise had been widely expected last week.

In Frankfurt, the dollar opened above one pfennig lower than Monday's close of 2,700 marks and fell back further by midday to

around 2,688 marks, well below the nine and a half year high seen Monday.

The West German currency was strengthened by the Swiss National Bank buying marks and although the West German Bundesbank (Central Bank) sold \$27 million at the morning's fix, dealers said the sum was modest by recent standards.

In Paris, the dollar fell back from the high of 8,1265 francs touched Monday to trade at around 8,0885 by midday. Dealers said the Bank of France had intervened in early trading, selling about \$50 million.

The Japanese yen recovered from an eight month low of 244.85 against the dollar in Tokyo Monday to 243.75 in London Tuesday.

OECD reduces oil consumption

LONDON (R) — Mild weather and low economic growth allowed the industrialised world to reduce its oil consumption by 7.4 per cent and its oil imports by 17.5 per cent in first quarter of 1983 compared with a year earlier, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

In its quarterly report, the IEA said greater efforts at energy efficiency and a switch to other fuels begun by the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 10 years ago after the first major oil price rise also played a part.

The report said OECD oil consumption dropped to 364 million tonnes in the first three months of 1983 from 393 million in first quarter of 1982.

Over the same period, imports fell to 188 million tonnes from 227 million, while OECD oil production rose 3.4 per cent to 182 million tonnes from 176 million.

Crude oil and product stocks held in OECD countries fell 15 million tonnes in the quarter to \$15 million, the IEA said.

OECD first quarter natural gas consumption fell to 231 billion cubic metres from 255 billion in first quarter 1982.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed after rallying from a lower opening which was prompted by Monday's 20-point fall on Wall Street, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 3.9 at 725.2 having been down 2.0 at 1500.

Leading equities were marked between a penny and 5p lower at the outset reflecting Wall Street's losses but a lack of sellers prompted some cheap buying and this, coupled with a stock shortage in some issues, led to the rally, dealers said.

Government bonds closed a touch harder in places though were below early gains of 1/4 point. Prices slipped off the top after the U.K. money supply figures, leaving rises of about 1/4 point.

In oils B.P. was firm, rising 3p to 418p, after 422p. Dealers said jobbers may have been short of B.P. stock. Among second liners Atlantic resources was 15p higher at 450p, after earlier gains of over 100p, as speculation continued over a possible significant oil discovery in the Irish Sea.

Elsewhere trading was quiet with Boots, Distillers, GEC and Lucas all losing a penny apiece. ICI was up 6p at 552p while Vickers was 2p higher at 119p.

Gold shares were generally firmer while North American shares were lower in line with Wall Street, dealers added.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	One sterling	1.4897/4907	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollars
	One U.S. dollar	1.2351/54	West German mark	Dutch guilders
		2.6875/85	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
		3.0030/40	French francs	Italian lire
		2.1740/50	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
		54.83/87	Danish crowns	U.S. dollars
		8.0870/9000		
		1591.50/1592.50		
		243.65/75		
		7.8790/8840		
		7.4900/9050		
		9.6650/6700		
		412.10/412.60		
One ounce of gold				

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Lots of activity in the little things of everyday life is very good. You would be wise to concentrate upon the details of whatever you are interested in.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle your work more efficiently now so that you can gain more income and feel more secure in the days ahead.

T AURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get your personal appearance improved and look and feel more magnetic. Then you can make a better impression on others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Fine day for getting your home just as you want it to be, and doing whatever will please kin, also. Socialize with friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A fine day for communicating and corresponding with others and getting shopping, errands done also.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Stop being so impulsive and find the best way of handling financial affairs. Study any property for possible improvements.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take those treatments you may need for better health and improve your appearance also. Buy new clothes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have secret manouverings to baffle and should get an early start on them to get right results. Persevere.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Ideal day to see good friends and renew acquaintances and deepening relationships. Enjoy personal amusements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into your vocational work and be most efficient at it. See that influential person about your ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get those ideas in motion now that you have been procrastinating about and be more successful in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan

WORLD

Guatemala's latest ruler promises free elections

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Guatemala's new president, brought to power in a military coup Monday, says he will move the country towards free elections and lift emergency restrictions decreed two months ago by ousted President Efraín Rios Montt.

Gen. Oscar Humberto Mejía Victores pledged to lift the restrictions on press freedom and the right of assembly in a speech made within hours of troops taking over the capital and ousting Gen. Rios Montt.

Soldiers surrounded the presidential palace and bantered their way into the building where Gen. Rios Montt and six loyal officers were taking refuge, officials said.

One man was killed and five wounded before Gen. Rios Montt finally negotiated a formal handover of power to his defence minister.

Initial soundings among officials here suggested that Gen. Mejía Victores, 52, was to the right of Gen. Rios Montt and might move to strengthen ties with the United States.

Gen. Mejía Victores, a paratrooper officer, trained under American instructors in the Panama Canal zone and has been prominent in the 20-year war by

Gen. Mejía Victores said Mon-

day he aimed to abolish special military tribunals set up by Gen. Rios Montt which have sentenced 15 men to death by firing squad in the past year.

A military proclamation said the takeover was prompted by the activities of a "religious fanatical and aggressive group using power for its own benefit."

The implications of the change in power were still being studied by political and church leaders here.

One churchman commented that the Roman Catholic Church, to which an overwhelming majority of Guatemalans belong, has felt persecuted under Gen. Rios Montt. "A change was needed," he said.

Gen. Mejía Victores said he would continue the fight against left-wing guerrillas but would also move the country towards free elections. He did not give a date.

The government in neighbouring Honduras, where Gen. Mejía Victores was reported by the local press to have met senior U.S. and Honduran military officers at the weekend, recognised the new government Monday night.

Gen. Mejía Victores said Mon-

More U.S. forces expected in Guatemala

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — The first contingent of U.S. forces dispatched to Central America has landed in Honduras for the largest military exercises ever staged in the region and more were expected Tuesday, military sources said.

The manoeuvres, named "Big Pine II," were designed to demonstrate U.S. ability to quickly deploy forces overseas and as a show of strength in Central America, where President Reagan sees a spreading Soviet and Cuban influence.

Between 2,500 and 3,000 troops are expected to arrive within the next four to five weeks, the military sources said.

A total of 5,600 U.S. troops will join 6,000 Honduran ground forces for exercises lasting at least six months. They will be backed up by 14 U.S. warships carrying more than 16,000 military personnel and 140 fighter planes.

The first Americans to arrive were a group of engineers who landed in the northern coastal town of San Pedro Sula Monday with equipment to build training

camps, barracks and a provisional 60-bed hospital.

The United States accuses Nicaragua, whose leftist leaders ousted a U.S.-backed dictator four years ago, of trying to export revolution to Washington's allies in the area.

Nicaraguan officials say the United States called the manoeuvres to set up an invasion of their country.

Honduran armed forces spokesman Cesar Elvir Sierra denied this, but said the manoeuvres carry a "clear warning" to Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan junta leader Daniel Ortega said Monday his country was preparing to battle U.S. troops to defend its territory "inch by inch."

In answer to U.S. charges that Soviet ships were carrying arms to Nicaragua he said: "We have the right... to obtain arms from wherever."

The U.S. manoeuvres have been sharply criticised by congressmen and Latin American diplomats who said the war games

Cape oil slick gone with the wind

CAPE TOWN (R) — The immediate threat of a pollution disaster on South Africa's Atlantic Coast appeared to have passed

Tuesday as offshore winds drove a massive oil slick from a wrecked Spanish supertanker out to sea.

Weather forecasters said a favourable southeasterly wind would continue until at least Tuesday night, blowing the 150-square-kilometre slick, now almost 50 kilometres offshore, away from the coast.

Pollution experts said the slick would soon enter the Benguela Current and be swept away into the Atlantic where it would break up.

Port officials said the bow section of the tanker Castillo de Belver, which broke in two after catching fire on Saturday, was being towed slowly out to sea.

British pollution expert Mike Garnett, flown in on Sunday to assist in the operation, said the plan was to move the bow with its estimated 50,000 to 60,000 tons of crude oil into deep water and allow it to sink. He said it would probably be Wednesday afternoon before it reached deep enough water.

The ship's stern section, containing an estimated 75,000 to 100,000 tons of oil, which sank after the fire, is not leaking and poses no immediate pollution threat.

Mr. Steinberg later reported to the police the films had been stolen from his office in the Beverly Hills District of Los Angeles.

Police asked the district attorney's (prosecutor's) office to consider taking criminal action against Mr. Steinberg, alleging he had filed a false police report.

Mr. Steinberg's lawyer, Leonard Levine, told reporters Monday "obviously" Steinberg is under investigation.

"He has been invited by the grand jury to give evidence. It is my understanding at this time he will respectfully decline the invitation," Mr. Levine said.

An actress, Cindy Stonehouse,

who told reporters she had been invited to attend weekly sex parties involving prominent people in the Los Angeles area, reported Monday she had been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.—In your opinion, what aspect of bidding causes the average player to throw away the most points? I tend to think that it is in alarm bidding, but I would value your opinion.—L. Matthews, Oak Park, Mich.

[This question has been awarded the weekly prize.] A.—I agree that, by and large, alarm bidding leaves something to be desired, even among many expert pairs. And at the top levels of bridge, failure to bid sound slams costs more than anything else. But my own feeling is that misfit hands cause far more damage to the average player.

I remember some years ago I was a guest in a computer railroad game. It seemed to be the rule that the shorter a player was in his partner's suit, the more he felt constrained to bid some number of no trump. No one ever gave a thought to the fact that, without a fit for partner's suit, there was simply no source of tricks for a no trump contract.

The average player simply doesn't know when to STOP bidding. Give him a sound

opening bid and, say, 6-5 in the black suits, and no matter how many times partner bids the red suit, he tries to push on in the blacks. And then when he gets doubled and loses some large number of points, he will wall: "But partner, you opened the bidding and I had 14 points and a six-card suit!"

Here's another example that is quite common. A player picks up:

♦KJ53 ♣A643 ♠K652

According to the point count, the hand is worth 11 points in high cards and 3 for the void. But now partner opens one heart, and the prudent player will immediately decide that his void in partner's suit is no longer an asset but, in fact, a major

drawback. Still, he has a perfectly sound one spade response. But when partner now rebids two hearts, showing a six-card suit, the whole picture of the hand changes. It has become a misfit, and I maintain that the only correct action now is to pass. But how many times have I seen players trot out three clubs, without even thinking that they are making a forcing bid and that there might no longer be any safe place to bid?

Three men are still missing and an agent for the shipowners said Monday there was little hope of finding them.



Some of the many thousands of Tamil refugees made homeless in nine days of violent riots in Sri Lanka. (A.P. wirephoto)

Sri Lanka appeals for foreign aid

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka, returning to normal after nine days of bloody ethnic clashes that resulted in millions of dollars of property damage, Tuesday appealed to local and foreign banks for help to rebuild the economy.

The government has set up a special organisation under President Junius Jayewardene to deal with reconstruction.

On the political front, the president's brother, Harry Jayewardene, was leaving for New Delhi Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, whose country's southern Tamil population has close links with the riot victims.

Mounting hostility between Nicaragua and Honduras, the staunchest U.S. ally in the region, spurred the so-called Contadora group of Latin American diplomats to urgent peace talks.

Clashes between U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels and Nicaraguan troops had raised fears of all-out war in the region.

Mr. Jayewardene said his government was willing to negotiate on terms for peace, particularly a proposal to withdraw foreign advisers.

Mr. Jayewardene suggested that instead of spending millions of dollars on the exercises, the United States should concentrate its efforts on aiding peace talks.

Officials have said at least 315 people were killed when the majority Sinhalese community attacked minority Tamils following an ambush by Tamil separatist guerrillas in northern Jaffna District, killing 13 soldiers.

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel, who urged foreign governments Monday to provide urgent financial assistance for reconstruction, told local and foreign bankers in Colombo Tuesday that the survival of their institutions here was involved.

"What is at stake is not a mere question of race relations, but the continuity of the government's economic policy and the country's economic growth rate. In fact, your very survival is at stake," he said.

Mr. De Mel said more than 100 factories had been damaged and some 100,000 people made homeless in the violence. Up to four billion rupees (\$167 million) was urgently needed to repair damage and rehabilitate refugees, he added.

Emergency supplies of food, clothing and medicine have begun arriving from abroad to help victims of the rioting. The first shipments to land came from India and the United States.

2 Americans arrested in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Police arrested 66 people, including two Americans, in Northern Ireland during a night of violence to mark the 12th anniversary Tuesday of the introduction of internment without trial for alleged guerrillas.

One American, from Indianapolis, was believed to be visiting the province in a group of 80 Irish Americans from the fund-raising organization Noraid, informed sources said. He faces charges of riotous behaviour.

Police fired plastic bullets to disperse demonstrators in the capital Belfast, the second city Londonderry, and Newry.

The most serious disturbances were in Londonderry, where youths set fire to shops and caused damage valued at hundreds of thousands sterling. Rioting also broke out in the towns of Dungannon, Coalisland and Derry.

Police said a number of people were in hospital, including an American from Pittsburgh who was arrested in Londonderry, but only one person appeared to be seriously injured.

Nine arrests were made in Newry, where rioters threw petrol bombs at police. In Coalisland, County Tyrone, masked men attacked a police station with petrol bombs and burned a bus.

The members of Noraid, which

sympathises with the Republican

guerrillas and their campaign to unify Ireland by force, have spent the past week in the province on a fact-finding tour.

The British government Monday night accused them of publicly associating themselves only with "supporters of violence" and making no effort to meet members of the province's Protestant majority.

The Northern Ireland Office, responding to suggestions by Protestant leaders that it should have refused to allow the Noraid members into the province, said in a statement: "To have sought to deny these visitors access to Northern Ireland would have suggested that we had reservations and doubts."

It said the government's policies were open for all to see and added that the group should have tried to speak to the province's Protestant majority as well as its Catholic minority.

"They have not done this, confining their meetings to limited groups and publicly associating themselves with supporters of violence," it said.

Police station attacked

MASERU (R) — A Lesotho government spokesman Tuesday accused South Africa of trying to assassinate Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan.

Information Minister Desmond Sisulu told Reuters in an interview that he believed South African agents had planted a bomb which exploded in Maseru last Thursday narrowly missing the prime minister.

He said Lesotho police knew there was a South African assassination squad in the capital aiming to kill Jonathan and other Lesotho figures, whom he did not name.

Mr. Sisulu said responsibility

for previous bombings and other violent incidents in Lesotho over the past two years had usually been quickly claimed by the Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA). But he said there had been no such claim for the Thursday blast.

The minister said police investigators had concluded that the explosive device used was too sophisticated for the LLA.

He also said that the car in which the bomb was planted came from Bloemfontein which, he said, was the centre for South African security operations against Lesotho. It bore South African registration plates, he said.

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